

➤ Conflict of Interest-SL

School of Law

- A. A faculty member shall not have a sexual relationship with, or attempt to have any such relationship, with any student while the student is enrolled in the School of Law, except when the relationship antedates the student's matriculation at the law school.
- B. A faculty member shall not allow his or her academic judgment respecting a grade, award, penalty, or other matter affecting an individual student's performance at the University of Baltimore to be affected by any personal or business relationship he or she has or has had with a student, nor shall a faculty member indicate that his or her judgment might be so affected.
- C. A faculty member shall not exploit his or her professional relationship with a student to induce the student to enter into a personal or business relationship with the faculty member.
- D. Within the meaning of Paragraphs B and C above, personal relationship shall include a student's relationship with the faculty member's spouse, parent or step-parent, child or step-child, sibling, or cohabitant of the faculty member, and business relationship shall include a student's relationship with an entity in which the faculty member has a financial interest or with a person who is the faculty member's spouse, parent or step-parent, child or step-child, sibling, or cohabitant.
- E. A faculty member shall avoid teaching or otherwise exercising academic authority over any student who is the faculty member's spouse, parent or step-parent, child or step-child, sibling, or cohabitant.
- F. A faculty member should avoid teaching or otherwise exercising academic authority over any student in circumstances where the faculty member's independent professional judgment is reasonably likely to be adversely affected or his or her impartiality may reasonably be called into question. Such circumstances may include but are not limited to those (1) where a faculty member has a significant personal or business relationship with a student which a reasonable person might believe would be influenced by the faculty member's evaluation of the student, and (2) where a faculty member (or a member of the faculty member's household) has a sexual or family relationship with the student.
- G. When a faculty member can avoid the kind of conflict of interest proscribed by Rules E and F above, he or she should take reasonable steps to do so. If the faculty member cannot avoid the conflict without failing or refusing to meet a responsibility owing to the university, the faculty member should disclose the conflict to appropriate authorities within the school and seek their assistance in avoiding it. Such assistance should include assigning the student to another course or course section, recusal of the faculty member from his or her responsibility of evaluating the student regarding the matter at hand, or such other action as may be appropriate in the circumstances.
- H. A faculty member may seek an advisory opinion from the Professional Responsibility Committee as to whether an activity is consistent with the rules.